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## Mexico

**Post:** Mexico

### Mexico Officially Extends Deadline to Comply with Organic Regulation

**Report Categories:**

Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal

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**Report Highlights:**

On May 8, 2015, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries, and Food (SAGARPA) published a notification in the *Diario Oficial* (Mexican Federal Register) extending the deadline to comply with Mexico's organic regulations to October 29, 2016. This extension allows products certified as organic under the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) to continue to enter and be sold in Mexico as organic.

## **General Information:**

**Introduction:** This report summarizes a notification by SAGARPA in Mexico's equivalent of the Federal Register extending the date to comply with Mexico's organic regulations for products certified as organic in countries in the process of achieving organic equivalency with Mexico, which includes the United States, to October 29, 2016.

**Disclaimer:** This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

**Title:** Agreement that modifies transitory Article Two to the Announcement of the Guidelines for Organic Operation of agricultural activities published on October 29, 2013.

## **Executive Summary:**

On May 8, 2015, SAGARPA published in Mexico's Federal Register an official extension of the deadline to comply with Mexico's organic regulations. This publication modifies Mexico's organic guidelines to allow producers 36 months from the original publication date of October 29, 2013 to comply with Mexico's organic regulations, meaning until October 29, 2016. As a result of this extension, products certified as organic under the U.S. National Organic Program (NOP) can continue to be exported to and sold in Mexico as organic. In addition, this gives the U.S. and Mexican governments additional time to complete their work toward establishing organic equivalency between the two countries. This takes effect the day following publication in the *Diario Oficial*, or May 9, 2015.

The publication recognizes that additional time is needed to maintain Mexican imports of organic products and to strengthen the development of Mexico's organic industry. This extension of the deadline for compliance with Mexico's organic regulations applies to certified organic products imported from countries that are in the process of establishing equivalency of their national organic programs, which includes the United States. This will be the only extension to the deadline.

The publication modifies the second article of Mexico's organic guidelines to read:

"For the case of products referred to in Article 258, Section V, of the present guidelines, provided that the country of origin for the products, in a formal manner, has initiated or is in the process of negotiating equivalency with the Mexican government, the maximum period to adapt to the established Agreement will be 36 months."

## **For More Information**

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at <http://www.mexico-usda.com.mx> or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at [www.fas.usda.gov](http://www.fas.usda.gov) for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

**Useful Mexican Web Sites:** Mexico's equivalent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at [www.sagarpa.gob.mx](http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx), the equivalent of the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at [www.economia.gob.mx](http://www.economia.gob.mx), and the equivalent of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at [www.salud.gob.mx](http://www.salud.gob.mx). These web sites are mentioned for the reader's convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.